

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 10, 2003, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Merely to facilitate allowance, by this Amendment, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application. No new matter has been added. The amendments to the claims do not narrow the scope of the claims. Claims 2-9 are pending and allowed.

Claim 1 was rejected under 5 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando (US Patent No. 5,109,279) in view of Yamaguchi (US Patent No. 5,790,204). As claim 1 has been canceled, the rejection is now rendered moot.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 2-9. The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully requests allowance of claims 2-9 and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 100341-09004.**

Respectfully submitted,



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